AMENDMENTS

In the Specification

Please replace Paragraph [0037] with the following:

--   Given ~~than~~ **that** CPU and IO intensive tasks like encryption and compression can be performed at secondary node SS, the processing bandwidth of primary node P can be optimized. Moreover, data transfer from primary node P to secondary node AS can be optimized when data is transmitted in, for example, a compressed state. Similarly, the results of processing data of modified logical blocks from primary node P by secondary assist system 110, can be provided by secondary node SS to another asynchronous secondary node AS2 using cascaded asynchronous replication in order to enable the updating of the volume V replica at AS2.   --